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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 17, Iss. 2)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

JUSTICE

Official Organ of The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Vol. XVII. No. 2.

Jersey City, N. J., January 15, 1935

Price 10 Cents

The Fight for the 30-Hour Work-Week

Already the early days of the current Congress session indicate that its dramatic highlights will be centered around the three major demands embodied in the legislative program of the American Federation of Labor.

There will be fighting on the floor of Congress and in the committee rooms for and against currency inflation; there will be considerable battling for or against tightening of control over crops as a means of raising market prices for agricultural products; and there will be, no doubt, many heated exchanges over the proposal to substitute public works jobs on a mass scale for billions doled out in direct relief. But the battle royal, so it appears at this moment, will be staged on the measure which the organized labor movement of America is vigorously pushing for immediate enactment.

The three labor demands which will draw the heaviest fire from the combined inter-party forces of open and covert reaction are: The thirty-hour work-week; the re-writing of Clause 7A of the National Recovery Act, so as to practically outlaw the employer-fostered company unions, and unemployment and old age insurance to be maintained by industry. Of these three proposals, the demand for a thirty-hour work-week obviously is of most immediate value in the battle against unemployment.

The American Federation of Labor brings to the 74th Congress a formidable case in demanding a shorter work-week for American labor. A careful survey just completed shows that unemployment was greater in November, 1934, than it was a year ago. In November, 1933, 11,030,000 were out of work, while in November, 1934, 11,450,000 were unemployed. The big industries have failed to put

men and women to work, while stubbornly opposing every possible advance in labor organization and wages, the shortening of working hours and improvement of working conditions.

It is palpably evident that the only way to create more industrial jobs is by distributing work over a shorter work-week to a larger number of workers. The shorter work-week is the one remedy which thus far has been applied with some degree of success to the malady of unemployment. It is the only remedy which brought about, since the Summer of 1933, the re-employment of several million idle workers. It is the only measure that can be depended upon to start the stagnant wheels of industry turning again and to offer permanent employment to the millions who, in the past five years, have been denied the chance to earn their bread.

Phila. Dress Pact Signed for 2 Years

President Dubinsky Present At Final Parley With Employers

As we go to press, word has reached us by telephone from President David Dubinsky in Philadelphia that at a final conference with the Dress Manufacturers' Association on Wednesday, January 9, in that city, the collective agreement with the Waist and Dress Joint Board was renewed for two years. The old contract, expired on December 31.

The new agreement, which covers the silk dress, cotton dress and blouse trades, will contain several modifications involving settlement of prices and improvements in the enforcement machinery. More details concerning it will appear in next issue of "Justice."

Mark Starr Heads Education Dep't

Department Will Be Expanded to Cover Entire Country, Says President Dubinsky

Mark Starr, director of extension courses at Brooklyn Labor College, has been appointed Director of the Educational Department of the I.L.G.W.U., President Dubinsky announced this week.

"Brother Starr comes to the post of directing the extensive educational activities of the I.L.G.W.U. fully equipped by his rich experience of years of fruitful service in the labor educational movement," President Dubinsky declared in connection with Mr. Starr's appointment. "Our Union is planning to enlarge its educational program not only in New York City but in every town and market where we have organizations. No effort will be spared to reach with the message of trade unionism every member of the I.L.G.W.U., North, South, East or West. In carrying out this ambitious program, Brother Starr may depend upon the cooperation of all our departments, branches and divisions in every part of the country."



As Congress Gets Under Way

Phila. Dress Events Summed Up

By Elias Reising, V.P.
Manager, Philadelphia Dress Joint Board

Quite a number of events have occurred in the life of the Philadelphia Waist and Dress Union since the last time I have written. For the lack of space, I shall only get down the most important ones.

Continuing on New Agreement

Our agreement, signed in May, 1932, with the Waist and Dress Manufacturers' Association of Philadelphia, expired on December 31, 1934, and a new agreement has to be made. As provided in our contract, we notified the employers sixty days prior to its expiration that we were ready for negotiations and invited them to a conference. The Union presented at these parleys with the employers a number of amendments and additions to the present agreement.

Three conferences already were held between the Association and the Union. On a number of things an agreement was reached. On those that we disagreed, both sides invited President Dubinsky to come to Philadelphia and to assist us in completing the renewal of the agreement. We are very hopeful that we will come together without any strife and continue relationship of industrial peace with the manufacturers.

The chief reason why we were not able to come together until now is due to the fact that delinquent still prevails in all of our trades. In the cotton and silk dress trades some of our members have been out of work for a long time and, were it not for the fact that the Union is watching that what work there is should be equally divided, there would have been a still greater number of totally unemployed.

New Locals Formed

Another important event that has taken place in our midst is the formation of new locals. Our Union as is well known to readers of "Justice," is composed of silk dress, cotton dress, blouse, waist and children's dress workers. Until recently all of our members working in all these respective trades were organized in one Local No. 66, which was subdivided into a branch. In addition to these branches, there was a local of men dressers, who are employed in the silk dress trade, but who were under the jurisdiction of the Cloak Joint Board.

It is nearly a year now since these various branches first applied to the International to be chartered as locals instead of branches. The problem seemed to be very complicated. President Dubinsky at one meeting of the G.E.R. appointed a



Chairladies and Active Workers of Philadelphia Dress and Waistmakers in Session in Big Assembly Hall of New Headquarters, 1008 Cherry Street; Vice-President Elias Reising, on the Right, Presiding

special committee to deal with the matter of these charters. The committee consisted of Vice-Presidents Harry Ward, Harry Greenberg and Samuel Perlmutter. The committee was to visit Philadelphia, make a first-hand investigation and present recommendations on the basis of its findings. At the last meeting of the General Executive Board, which was held in Canada, the committee submitted its report and the G.E.R. thereupon de-

clared that Local to be divided into locals and that the dress pressers be granted a separate charter and affiliate themselves to the Waist and Dress Joint Board.

The New Setup

The situation now stands as follows: All Waist, Children's Dress and Dress Cutters are in one Local, No. 11.

All those who work on cotton dresses and blouses are under one Local, No. 15.

All Dress Pressers are under one Local, No. 45, and the Silk Dressmakers, taking in operators, finishers, drawers, examiners, trimmers and platers are under Local No. 16.

The Embroiderers Local No. 25, whose members are employed at satellites and whose production is used nearly 90% on waists and

dresses, applied to our Joint Board for affiliation. A special committee of the Joint Board was elected to deal with this matter and, if the Committee should recommend granting their request, we shall then have a well-established Dress and Waist Joint Board with five locals.

On the Educational Front

Until the last Fall season, we conducted our educational work at meetings. From time to time, we would arrange an outing or a gathering, but it is only since the arrival of autumn that we started systematic educational work among our members. We engaged a social director, and our educational, social, cultural and recreational activities are now in their full swing. We have several classes in English, American History, Trade Union History, Fable Speaking, Swimming, etc. We have also developed an excellent basketball team consisting of cutters. Our team played its first game on Saturday, January 5, against Local No. 16, at the Laramie Hotel, New York. The result was 25 to 11 in favor of Philadelphia.

We are now working on plans to create music groups. In fact, one group, a vocal Union chorus, has been formed. Thus we are going on with our work, taking care of the welfare of our members in the shop, in the office of the Union, and we are trying, besides, to make their lives at home a little easier and brighter.

New York Cloak Industry Brevities

By Louis E. Langer
Secretary New York Cloak Joint Board

The third week of last December, in which three of our largest locals held their elections for officials, might well be termed "Officials Week." The heated partisans in the elections spoke and wrote a good deal of nonsense. Had they perpetuated this foolishness of tongue and pen in their own names it would not have mattered to us. What concerns us, however, is that it was committed in the name of the Union.

"We cannot ascertain exactly how much time and energy all these writers devoted to the campaign circulars, but, judging from their size and yet print, we can imagine the labor expended on them must have been enormous. We are sure that had the editor of "Justice" read the campaign slogans with which the various factions flooded the market, and had he been called upon to decide which partisan group was most deserving of the "Nobel Peace Prize," we are almost certain he would have chosen the promoters as the winners, because they put out not a single circular. Therefore, it is only gratified to remark, "Lucky promoters, they haven't a single competitor in their ranks!"

The campaign literature which jaded the mind as "rubbish" as a gross piece of jax will soon be forgotten, as are other "works of art" of the same caliber.

The most gratifying thing about the late elections in the Hood with which the locals dispatched them. No rancor was manifested by the losing candidates. Over long years of experience as active union men they have learned to be "good losers." In this respect the cloak makers have made great progress. Years ago, an election used to be followed by a flood of complaints, which showed a decided lack of

sportsmanship on the part of the losing candidate. Before the election every candidate would figure on drawing thousands of votes. But when he would lose he would serve out his really bad temper with the votes that he anticipated but that the tabulators had given his votes to another. . . . Today things are quite different. The voter makes it known to the candidate in advance that he will not favor him, so that when the returns are announced, the loser has no one to accuse.

Although the late elections were the most pleasant in comparison with those of former years, the members should, nevertheless, be glad that the Chicago convention resolved that elections should be held every two years instead of every year. It is not so much the economy motive that prompted the decision, as the avoidance of the annual confusion and tumult created by the elections. For negotiating that resolution Local No. 33 deserves only more praise but a laurel wreath from all members who have no political ambitions and to whom the good name of the Union is sacred.

When this survey appears the installations in our locals will be over. The locals finished the installations as quickly as they had the ruling, so as to give the Joint Board the opportunity to set up its staff without loss of time.

We hope that the great number of cloakmakers who did not have a seatable Winter season will, nevertheless, greet the approaching Spring season when it comes to the settling of prices with courage and the resolution not to permit the buyers to take advantage of the post-unprofitable season. They must understand no circumstances permit themselves to be hypnotized by the pretty speeches of their bosses who might attempt to get a low price

settlement by promising a great deal of work.

Brother Levy, manager of Local No. 1, had again been vested with the responsibility of overseeing the price settlements and of making sure that prices are settled in such a manner as to prevent competition between the workers of the various shops.

Concerning Brother Levy, we all know from experience that he undertakes his task thoroughly and we are convinced that he will fulfill it honorably. His success, however, depends on the mass cooperation that he must receive from the cloakmakers themselves. We therefore urge the cloakmakers to bear in mind the fact that only with their help will Brother Levy be able to fulfill his great and difficult task completely. They must also remember that in helping Brother Levy they will be giving themselves the opportunity of gaining the greatest good from the coming season.

We trust that the cloakmakers will bear this fact in mind, in their minds during price settlements.

The buyers who purchase the finished ladies' garments, from end to end, made, at the end of last season, the customary industrial and mercantile prophecy. They predicted that 1935 will be a good year for the ladies' garment industry. They claim that the cloak industry has every reason to expect that its condition will show up for the better and that its future is assured. They made the same prophecy last year at this time and yet we can truthfully say that the majority of the cloakmakers are pleased that the year, 1934, is already entered in the book of the past. Naturally, this crystallizing about seems so comfortable to us because we should like nothing better than to see it materialized. They claim that the season will

begin with suits and sweaters. These two clothing styles, will keep the industry busy during the first half of the season until the time of coat arrivals.

In general, the recent Spring seasons offered more work than the Winter seasons. The reason is quite obvious; the Spring garment is considerably more profitable than the Winter garment so that the average woman can buy the former with greater ease.

The sweater suit, besides being very becoming, is also very practical and, most of all, economical. In the sweater suit the woman has the use of a coat and a suit and she is able to buy it at practically half the price of a winter coat. She can wear it on many different occasions and can always be dressed properly. It is appropriate to call it the working woman's outfit. Therefore, when the season begins with the sweater suit, because there is a demand for it, we can look forward to a lively and active season.

Vice-President Nagler Nominated For Joint Board Manager

Isidore Nagler, for the past seven years general manager of the New York Cloak Joint Board, was re-nominated for annual re-election last post on Wednesday evening, January 9, at the regular meeting of that body at 3 West 16th Street, New York City.

Nagler's nomination will be forwarded to all the locals affiliated with the Joint Board so be balloted on at membership meetings, as the by-laws of the Board require the election of the general manager by a popular vote.

The Joint Board decided to postpone the election of all other officers until the complete election returns from all the locals are in and the new delegates are received and installed.

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Among the Undergarment Workers

By Samuel Shore
Manager, Local 82

PROBLEMS WE FACED AND SOLVED

The General Strike called by our Union in September, 1932, culminated in complete victory. But the very success of the strike brought to the foreground serious organizational problems. Almost overnight, our membership grew well in excess of two thousand.

The industry is scattered in all parts of Greater New York. Plans had to be devised to perfect the machinery of control. We lacked man power. We utilized those we considered as possessing sufficient experience and ability for this type of work within our own ranks and were obliged to look outside of the labor movement for additional Union representatives.

Staffing a Serious Problem

It was during the period when all of the heads of the international had grown to inebriate proportions and practically all human material of this kind was being rapidly absorbed. After some sifting of individuals, we finally provided the personnel, which, has since been rendering the Union sincere, invaluable service.

Just a few weeks following our workers' return to their shops, an unexpected lull set in the industry. For a time, we grew very apprehensive. We found ourselves with thousands of new union recruits out of employment. Those recruits, of course, were not students of economics, and their first and natural impulse was to fasten the blame for the unprecedented slackness upon the Union. The manufacturers, in turn, running true to color, sought to exploit these conditions to their own advantage. Attempts were made on their part to deprive labor standards. Needless to say that our "friends," the "rank and file," contributed their measure of "work" to add to the confusion. In addition, we were faced with a singularly unfortunate situation regarding the promulgation of the Code of our industry.

The Fight For the Code

The cut-throat manufacturers, banded together under the banner of the National Manufacturers' Association and made frantic efforts to put through a \$12, 40-hour Code. Obstacles and perils in this endeavor, they availed themselves of every technicality and subterfuge to delay the formulation of the Code. And, when at last, a 275-hour work week and a \$16.50 minimum for minimum in New York City, \$14 minimum for cut-throat, was agreed upon, a new situation developed that threatened our relations with the New York United garment manufacturers. The Undergarment League, consisting mainly of unaffiliated manufacturers, balked at allowing labor representatives to hold the vote on the Code Authority.

The making of the Code necessitated frequent trips to Washington and an annual conference, some lasting well the late hours of the night and some until dawn. Ultimately the Government outstayed our position. We triumphed.

We were exceedingly in having the Code provide for a fact finding commission to study competitive condi-

tions within the industry with respect to labor costs, in order to make recommendations to the Administrator for the adoption of occupational classifications, and to investigate the need for the employment of learners in the industry.

Labor is represented on this commission by Sidney Hillman, president of the American Federation of America; Rose Schuylerman, president of the Women's Trade Union League; Samuel Perlman, manager of the Cutthroat Local 10 and by myself. This Commission is completing its investigation and

will make its report public in the near future.

On the Authority: The Dyer's Strike

During the later part of 1933, we strengthened our fences and solidified our forces. We conducted an aggressive and effective organization of those shops which escaped our attention in the turmoil of the General Strike of the preceding year.

Brother Frederick P. Umber, who proved of exceptional value as

labor member of the Code Authority and myself, consistently opposed all requests for overtime work, made by manufacturers in our industry, with the gratifying result of a marked stabilization of the industry which accrued to the benefit of the workers.

Another grave and disturbing situation, which was averted during the autumn season was the Paterson dye strike. Undergarment manufacturers found themselves short of materials. Cutters and operators were laid off in the very height of the season. For a

brief period of time, heavy clouds hung again over our Union. But our members had already grown older and wiser in the organization. The intangible shop meeting, the general and educational activities carried on by our Union, had their effect. The members understood that the Union was not in the position of being responsible for these conditions, but that on the contrary we did all in our power to aid the Paterson strikers in order to bring the dye strike to a speedy settlement.

We face the New Year with renewed hope and vigor and an abiding faith in our international and in the American Labor Movement as a whole.



OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS OF LOCAL 82

Left to right, top row: Sam Flaum, Eldore Schoonhovel, Samuel Spravac, Philip Poll, Arthur Diba, Samuel Grath, Morris Zeitz. Middle row: Frances Agnola, Margaret Cytron, Shirley Egan, Tillie Schoenbrun, Gusie Michaelson, Rose Gottlieb, Esther Grafflater, Mary Gennovay, Eva Weiss, Lottie Rosenberg, Grace Guendlin, Jennie Adella. Bottom row: Sonia Shulman, Gertrude Baron, Lillie Gottlieb, Mary Goff, Samuel Shore, Manager; Fannie Shapiro, Fanny Bramer, Lila Kaplan, Anna Manghit.

"The Spirit of 148"

By William Altman
Manager, Local 148,
Union City, N. J.

Local 148, the organization of the women's garment workers in Hudson and in the eastern part of Bergen County, in New Jersey, looks back today with a sense of well-earned pride upon its efforts and achievements of the past year and a half, since it emerged as a labor union after the memorable strike of August, 1932.

This section of New Jersey had been an area steeped in the tradition of the sweatshop and reeking with inhuman conditions of wages and hours. Today, we stand with heads uplifted, we have a union, a strong and permanent local, and a membership deeply imbued with the aims and ideals of trade unionism.

"It's Good to Have A Union"

Local 148 has collected for its workers more than \$1,000 in the form of back pay, which was distributed according to specific shops. Very often, by the time the prices had been investigated and money collected, we would discover that some of the members who were entitled to part of the money had left the shop and were working elsewhere. It is a common occurrence in such ventures to come up to the Union when notified and express their sincere surprise on receiving the back pay about which, in many cases, they had already forgotten. It is moments like these that bring a spark of joy to the heart as we hear their exclaim: "How good it is to have a Union!"

We are a large happy family with an Executive Board consisting of

twenty-five members, presided over by Brother John Mitchell, with Sister Nancy Pelligrino as recording secretary. This capable body functions both as a committee "of the whole" and in individual sub-committees and has performed its varied duties creditably and with good judgment. Another important branch of our executive department is the Shop Control Committee, a very alert and diligent group of workers. Through tireless efforts they play a large part in upholding the union standards and keeping an accurate check on our shops, and in reporting all violations to the grievance board.

Leisure Put To Good Use

Although we are primarily interested in the economic welfare of our members, we are also deeply concerned in providing the stimulus for their physical culture and recreational development. For those of our members who are musically inclined, we have our mandolin orchestra. This group is being taught under the guidance of our parent body. Other locals at whose affairs our orchestra has been invited to play agree that they have made very rapid progress. They have encouraged us to go still farther and we plan to bring new recruits into this group in order to maintain a second group.

In the field of athletics, we have our basketball team in the summer months, and basketball and bowling teams for the Fall and Winter seasons. Their teams, under the supervision of William Hoppel, have played several matches with other locals and have shown themselves capable of meeting every sort of competition.

It is a custom of our local to

run a dance each year. Our First Annual Dance, which was held on May 4, 1934, at the Elks Auditorium in Union City, N. J., went with such great success that in drawing plans for the Second Annual Dance, to be held on Saturday, March 2, 1935, we are hiring, by popular demand of our membership, Columbia Park Auditorium in Hudson County. This is one of the finest and most spacious halls in the section. Provisions are under way to make this occasion one of the highlights of our social program for 1935.

A Part of the General Movement

Local No. 148, with the help of active members, has been able to assist other locals who call upon it in times of need. We aided Local No. 135 in their last general strike and also helped the United Textile Workers in their various

struggles in this country. Other local unions, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, have also called upon us, and we have given them our assistance. We have also joined the Central Labor Union, a body of all unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. in this locality.

Aside from the wholehearted cooperation we have received from the Executive Board and active members, we have been able to assist by our business agents, Joseph Hahn, Frank T. Antonski, and Jack Nisberg.

We have been able only to sketch briefly our endeavors in organization and unionism. It is our sincere belief that this outline leaves a picture of our busy days, and that the threads of vital, intangible strength—"union consciousness"—will result in a garment of hope and courage to be worn by us with pride.



"Justice" in Chinese—Sample of Union Agitation Literature Used by San Francisco I.L.G.W.U. Organization.

Social Insurance Prospects in U. S.

By Michael Eversley

The problem of social insurance is one of America's most pressing problems today. Times there were not so very long ago when the very thought of social insurance was stigmatized here as a "socialist importation." It was regarded as a thing that could only humiliate the free and proud American worker.

The protracted economic crisis, however, has made a decided change in the American attitude towards social insurance. Social insurance, as a plan or idea, has become legitimized in the United States. As a result, both the defeated Republicans and the victorious Democrats are busy in Congress drafting projects and schemes of social insurance. It remains to be seen, however, how far these plans can really add to the security of the American working masses as social insurance.

Masses Woefully Insecure

From the viewpoint of production, we, in America, are living to-day a period of astounding prosperity. Distribution of production, however, still remains in a state bordering on chaos. We are not far removed in this respect from the unhappy Tarsila's of Greek mythology, who found himself hungering and thirsting for things which his eyes could perceive but his hands could not reach. The masses of our unprecedented prosperity, there are millions among us who are suffering from want and privation. The millions who are employed for some secure life. This sense of insecurity which, in fact, is the worst affliction of our present-day economic existence.

Ninety years ago, one of the earliest socialists, Louis Blanc, came forth with the demand—an astounding one for his time—that each human being be entitled to an elementary right, to the right to work. Means of a livelihood, Blanc said, are the product of labor, and every healthy man is, therefore, entitled to a job, to useful production of the means of his livelihood. It is curious that Blanc was also the first to demand that governments undertake public works, a function which occupies an important part in Roosevelt's New Deal.

Main Social Duty

Society, as it is organized and as it is functioning today, however, does not insure its citizens but, by neglecting unemployment, society today has the means and, therefore, should insure its citizens against sickness, old age and other ills that might befall them. Society is not bound to care for those who fall by the wayside in the highly taxing present-day struggle for existence.

Social insurance, however, is by no means a most difficult or pleasurable task for the statesman. It has already become a realistic part of the governments of many countries. Most countries in Europe operate systems of social insurance of more or less satisfactory kind. In democratic countries like England, France, Belgium and Czechoslovakia, in Communist Russia, even in the so-called dominated lands, like Germany and Italy, systems of social insurance are at work. Practically the only exception to this rule is our own country, but even here the changes are beginning to move in the direction of social insurance.

Social Insurance Forging to the Front

President Roosevelt has made it known on more than one occasion that it is part of his program to establish social insurance in the United States. True, the President is not quite definite concerning the framework of such insurance, but he has made it clear that he has in mind a comprehensive program of social insurance, including unemployment, sickness and old age. At a recent gathering in Washington, summoned by Secretary of Labor Perkins, on November 14, 1934, under the high-sounding name of "Conference for Economic Security," President Roosevelt, nevertheless, spoke in no doubtful terms of the necessity of social insurance. He actually waved aside the suggestion of a broad program of old age pension and of systematic support for the aged.

This he designated as "problems for the future." "On one point," however, we may be definite," the President said, "unemployment insurance should be the first program. It, however, must be financed by contributions and not by taxation."

Who is to Pay the Premiums?

The current session of the 74th Congress will no doubt tackle various plans of social insurance. The Wisconsin Plan, based on funds raised from payroll assessment on workers and employers alike, will probably come up for consideration. There is still, however, a danger that these plans will yield hasty, ill-considered results, that the mountain of discussion will bring forth but a tiny mouse.

Social insurance, like private insurance, it must be borne in mind, is to be based only on large accumulated funds. Under any system of social insurance there would have to be premiums paid by those insured or by those who are to be paid for their insurance. The question arises: From what source should these funds be raised? Who is to pay the premiums? Which leads us to another very important point, the very hub of the problem of social insurance. This point involves the question as to whether this social insurance is to be compulsory or voluntary.

The Part of the Government

Among the various forms of social insurance in Europe there are compulsory systems and voluntary ones; there are systems under which the government only administers the insurance funds, as in France and Belgium, and there are other systems which place the burden of insurance upon the government itself. In the majority of cases, however, the social insurance funds are raised jointly by workers, employers and federal, state and local governments. An ideal system of social insurance is such a system which the government actually carries the major part of the burden and raises the funds by direct taxation. Such a system provides for social insurance in the true sense of the term. For the principle of insurance, in general, is predicated not merely upon the proposition that employable workers should pay for the insurability of their own lives, but also, that those who have the means should carry the burden of those who have no means. It is the government that is to carry out in practice this basic principle of insurance. Unfortunately, most

governments are adverse to undertaking such direct and obvious responsibility. They appear to be able to raise enough means for military preparations and armaments, but, as a rule, neglect themselves poverty-stricken when it comes to social insurance.

A Minimum Goal for Labor

In America, the problem of social insurance is, in addition, made

Wings Over Washington

News-Letter From The Capital

By Len De Caux

Unemployment, overshadowed all else in President Roosevelt's message to Congress. Amid all the generalities of this keynote speech, one concrete proposal emerged: to cut the millions of jobless off the payroll and put them to work on low wage public projects.

After denouncing the present policy of relief without work, the president paused and declared with the greatest emphasis: "The federal government must and shall quit this business of relief." The assembled Senate and Congressmen gave this declaration much applause, though skepticism in the reception of most of the rest of the message.

Big Business Likes Low Wage Idea

That the applause was influenced largely by big business opposition to federal relief was indicated a little later, when the loud clapping of the white shirts greeted Roosevelt's advocacy of low wages on the proposed public works. That wages of such government projects should operate to lower standards in private employment was not to raise them, has been one of the most emphatic employer demands—expressed in bitter criticisms of last year's CWA wage rates, and more recently in the demands of the United Chamber of Commerce and National Assn. of Manufacturers meet at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

Roosevelt yielded to this pressure in his much applauded declaration that "compensation on emergency public projects should be in the form of security payments which would be larger than the amount now received as a relief dose, but at the same time not so large as to encourage the rejection of opportunities for private employment or the leaving of private employment to come to government work."

Speaking of the 5 million unemployed on relief rolls, the president said that 1 1/2 million of them, who are unable to work, must be cut off relief, under a single law, and greatly enlarged plan of public works. He forecast the eventual superseding of the FEERA by a coordinated authority charged with the function of directing relief activities and substituting "a national chart for the giving of work."

Wide Scope of Public Works

Details as to the character and extent of the proposed public works

were more complicated by the jurisdiction lines between the individual states and the federal government. Organized labor, however, should frame its demand for social insurance to embrace the country in its entirety, without distinction as to state or territory.

To sum up: the question of social insurance as practical legislation is still in the air. The friends and advocates of such legislation in America, how-

ever, have the opportunity of pointing out the mistakes and drawbacks of other systems of insurance already in operation in other countries. Under any circumstances, social insurance is one of our burning problems today. American workers must bear in mind that social insurance is neither a dose nor charity. It is a social right to which they are unconditionally entitled. Social insurance, in the widest sense of the term, must therefore begin the immediately minimum goal of all the forces of organized labor in the United States.

were not given in the speech, beyond confirmation of the long circulated reports that they would cover rural housing and reforestation, slum clearance, reforestation, road construction, soil erosion prevention, grade crossing elimination and extension of the CCC program. Roosevelt was careful to stress, for the satisfaction of businessmen, that they would mostly be projects where "private capital is unable to function."

In regard to the long-promised social insurance program, the president promised detailed recommendations in the near future on "the broad aspects of unemployment insurance and old age insurance, benefits for children, for mothers, for the handicapped, for maternity care and for other aspects of dependency and illness where a beginning can now be made." But he did not promise any immediate relief along these lines, saying that his security program "because of many lost years will take many future years to fulfill."

Light From Japan and Nazi Germany

For the rest, Roosevelt's message in generalities about social insurance, the profit motive, recovery and reform; called for "renewal and clarification of the general principles of the National Recovery Act," took a side-trip to the first feature of "holding companies" in the public utilities field and expressed satisfaction with the effects of administration policies on agriculture and a determination to continue them.

A delicate jab at Japan and Nazi Germany was seen in the brief reference to foreign relations. "On the surface of things," Roosevelt said, "many old passions are resurrected, old passions aroused; new stirrings for argument and power in more than one land, rear their ugly heads. But the calm and constructive leadership will provide the steady influence and the wise necessary for the coming of new and more practical forms of representative government throughout the world where privileges will occupy a lesser place and world welfare a greater."

Slimming The News

More than 2,400 bills were introduced in the House on the opening day. The people of the United States are in demand, stimulated by these, and there's usually a Congressmen to put in a bill. But just try to get it out the calendar under the new House rules. . . . Congressmen are now being bowled down with letters to them demanding real unemployment insurance right now for the jobless. . . . For the veterans, shorter hours of work. That's why the Representatives

aren't being trusted this year as much as last. . . . Gen. Johnson turned and belived in him, when the Bureau report accused the NRA of encouraging monopoly. The administration follows just don't seem to be able to get together on their details.

Now Federal Trade Commission report is just out which calmly talks of the "steady trend toward monopoly" and asks more power to check it. . . . Now that the Blue Eagle has been gone into history, that older bird, the union label, is doing some chirping. The bluebird is no kind of substitute, says Secretary I. M. Oshbourn of the A. P. of L. Union Label Trades Dept. It spreads its wings over many industries that are "completely ignoring proper representation and collective bargaining agreements by denying their workers the right to organize," he says. It also mothers prison-made products. . . .

FRES. DUBINSKY WILL ATTEND FIRST A. F. OF L. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING IN WASHINGTON, JAN. 29



President David Dubinsky

A meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has been announced for January 29, 1935, to be held at the A. F. of L. headquarters in Washington.

While a special meeting was held in New York, immediately following the 54th annual convention of the Federation, this is the first regular meeting of the new Council, which now contains eighteen members.

No special announcement of business to be acted upon has been released thus far, but it is held as reasonably certain that the Council will be afforded the opportunity to accomplish considerable work of a constructive nature.

Comm. Towns Alive with Union Activities

By Bernard Shub

Connecticut Manager, I.L.G.W.U.

The year that just passed has not been as good as we expected for our members. Particularly during the last six months, work was very slow and some of our shops had no full season at all.

Yet, despite the fact that there was very little work, we managed to maintain conditions and standards in all our shops through the Connecticut locals. We did everything possible to uphold the morale of our members through various activities at numerous meetings, and in that way we kept up the morale of the employees to utilize the slack period to their advantage.

On some instances, where the employers attempted to reduce wages by offering them less for work at cheaper prices, we immediately checked up on these, and wherever reductions were made, we succeeded in collecting back wages or securing price increases. In some cases, we collected over \$2,000 in back wages (outside of money collected through the New York Joint Board).

Because of present conditions in the industry, it was necessary to call several meetings of the chairmen and price committees, at which instructions were given them as to how to do about settlement of prices.

It is rather a cheerful sign that, in spite of the slackness in the industry, over 2,500, or about 80 per cent of our members, have paid

the Convention Tax of \$1.00 per person, and \$50 Anti-Nail tax.

Educational Activities

Aside from the regular routine of setting prices and adjusting complaints and disputes, which, I suppose, the same have as elsewhere, we have also carried on educational activities. We had several good meetings in many locations, such as Stamford, Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford, with Henry Jaeger as speaker, and Maxim Brodsky in a musical program, and are now planning to continue our educational forums—the next one being with Frank Crosswain on January 21.

We are now also in the process of organizing athletic clubs, and special meetings are being called for that purpose. The meeting in New Haven was attended by Louis Schaffer, in charge of the recreational work of the I.L.G.W.U.

Stator Fanna M. Cohn has also been very active in arranging educational and social meetings for many of our locals, such as Stamford, Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford.

Vice-President Salvatore Nudi also visited Connecticut and had several meetings with the Executive Boards of our locals and some member meetings.

Local 151 of New Haven is now busy engaged in completing arrangements for a big dance, which will be given in the New Haven Armory on Saturday evening, February 3. Already two orchestras

have been engaged—Ward & Bernhart, New Haven's well known orchestra, and Will Osborn and his orchestra from New York. All the out-of-town locals are asked to make any arrangements for that date.

Successful dances have already been held by our Stamford and Bridgeport locals.

Modigliani's Visit

Giuseppe Modigliani has visited New Haven, and we had a very successful meeting with him. Over six hundred people turned out to listen to Modigliani's version of "The Half" and "Democracy Versus Fascism."

Besides Modigliani, First Vice-President Laet Antonioli and Arturo Giovannitti attended the meeting.

After the meeting, a nice little reception was arranged for the distinguished visitor, in which members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the International, and other labor organizations participated. Vice-President Harry Wauder, general manager of the Out-of-Town Department, attended the meeting and the reception.

News From the Corset Workers

In Bridgeport, Conn., we have a local of corset workers, known as Local 151.

On December 7, over six hundred workers of the Warner Bros. Corset Company walked out, because the firm attempted to establish a change-price system at the expense of the workers, by reducing the wages of the workers on the cheaper lines from 18 to 20 per cent.

Several meetings followed, and after the corset workers were out for two and a half days, we began conferring with the firm. These conferences were attended by Vice-President Harry Wauder, a leader, manager of the Corset Workers' Union, Local 22, and the writer of these lines, and as a result of these conferences, the following settlement was reached: The wages in all departments are to remain as they were prior to the walkout, and all work workers are to receive increases: \$1.00 a week for the female work workers, and \$1.50 for all male work workers. The workers cheerfully accepted the terms and returned to work.

Vice-President Harry Wauder, a leader, as well as John Kanus, secretary of the Connecticut State Federation of Labor, deserve a lot of credit for the settlement made with the Warner firm.

Educational activities are also being carried out by the Corset Workers' Union, Local 151, similar to those carried on in dress locals in Connecticut.

I sincerely hope that the Spring season, and, in general, the year of 1935, will be a better year for our members in this State, not for the dressmakers in particular.

Modigliani Meeting Stirrs Passaic Workers

By Frank Liberti
Manager, Local 158

A galaxy of brilliant speakers, headed by Giuseppe Modigliani, spoke at our Faircity rally before a crowded house in Passaic, N. J., on December 7. In the main hall of the Polish People's Home. The audience consisted of members of the I.L.G.W.U. A.C.W. of N. J., and other labor organizations.

The meeting was held under the auspices of Local 158, I.L.G.W.U. of Passaic. Frank Liberti, manager of the local, was chairman, and he was loudly applauded when he declared that Modigliani has come to the United States to tell the true story of how 40 million Italians have, for twelve years, been held in the clutches of Fascism.

Arturo Giovannitti, Italian labor boss, was the first speaker and he delivered a fiery speech against the tyranny of Fascism and oppression, urging all the workers to march together for the winning of a world where all work will be free. Giovannitti was followed by Roy Salsbery, president of the I.T.W. local of Local 195 of the A.C.W. of A. J. Frank Best, president of the Silk Dyers' Federation, and Frank Liberti, president of the Silk Dyers' Federation, which has just come out of a long and successful strike against the Paterson silk dyer employers. Brother Baldanza pledged his organization to the humane work of enlightening Fascism and tyranny.

Laet Antonioli, First Vice-President of the I.L.G.W.U., was then introduced by Chairman Liberti. He spoke in Italian and dealt, in particular, with the purposes of Modigliani's trip in America. He told of how Modigliani personally persecuted and beaten in his homeland and of the wonderful work of enlightenment, concerning the brutality and enslavement of Fascism, which he has since carried on in many lands. He then introduced the principal speaker, Giuseppe Modigliani.

Educational Work of Local 145

This Fall, with the aid of the central educational department, we began a series of educational activities among our members. The subject which has attracted the largest attendance has proved most interest is a class on Corset Events and Trade Unionism, conducted by Mr. Barlock. The corset group and the dramatic group have also received enthusiastic attention. The dramatic group is now rehearsing a little play which they will present in the near future.

We have secured a gymnasium and showers in one of the modern

schools in our city and we have also the assurance from the Y. W. C. A. that after January first their gymnasium and swimming pool will be available to our group. During the past few weeks our men members have organized a basketball team. Altogether, we have about 130 members interested in these activities. Our executive board is making a drive to arouse more interest among our members in recreation as well as the bowling team organized by the men of Local 165 has played games with our Union City and Newark locals, and came out victorious from both. Three of the boys have organized a singing trio and they have already sung at several of the fairs run by other locals. They were very well received and are having a good time wherever they go. In all these activities, we have had the cooperation of Local 114, whose offices are combined with ours. We are looking forward to doing real worthwhile things in Passaic.

EMBROIDERERS IN NEW HOME

A large crowd of members and friends, including several G.E.H. members, came on Saturday, December 25, to the housewarming at the new headquarters of Local 64, Boston Embroiders' and Tuckers and Platers' Union, at 132 West 32nd Street, New York City.

There were short speeches, a lot of cheering and refreshments. The new office of Local 64 was a most spacious than the old place in the People's House and is located in the "heart" of the trade. A library, a woman's lounge room and a men's lobby offer special accommodations for the members. Manager Louis Haffay issued a call to all chairmen and chairladies to send books to the new library rather than flowers to the spinning. Books, he pointed out, are far a more useful and durable contribution.

GRATITUDE

We, the workers of Winner & Arnold, 247 West 23rd Street, New York City, at a shop meeting at the Joint Board of Cookmakers' Union, 121 West 23rd Street, adopted a resolution to thank our business agent, Brother Abraham Hinkin of Local 3, for the good work he has been doing for our shop and to present him a gift.

L. NOVICK, Local 1.
Chairman.
FRANK ROLLER, Local 1.
DAVID SWEDLER, Local 1.
MORRIS STEIN, Local 1.
Committee.

Knitwear Council Records Steady Gain

The energetic activities of the administration of the Joint Council of the Knitgoods Workers Union in recent weeks are showing notable results. Reports coming from Union headquarters call particular attention to three developments indicating the militancy and growing power of the Union.

Strike Brings Firm To Terms

In Linden, New Jersey, there are the Howe Knitting Mills, a concern that came to this town in an attempt to escape the control of the Union. Before December 16, 1934, this mill operated under conditions that were in gross violation of the Knitgoods Workers' Code, not to speak of union standards. How extremely bad conditions were can be seen from the fact that wages ranged below \$10 for a 48-hour week. Advances suggested by workers in the mill met with such outrageous disregard as refusal to pay wages to workers regularly employed, to a double system of pay, one rate for workers living in New York and a lower one for those living in New Jersey, attempts at evasion by not recording the workers' names on the payroll, refusal to pay the code minimum scales, discharge of workers after a trial period without pay, and so on. These matters were repeatedly brought before the code authority during the month of October but with little result.

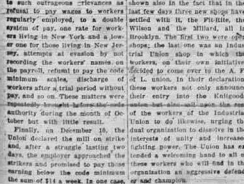
Finally, on December 18, the Union declared the mill on strike and, after a struggle lasting two days, the employer approached the strikers and promised to pay those nursing below the code minimum the sum of \$14 a week. In one case,

for example, this meant an increase of \$8 a week, since the worker had been earning no more than \$6 for a 48-hour week. Thus, through vigorous organized action, the Union was able to bring about a considerable improvement in conditions.

The Fight in Haverhill

In the Hiram Knitting Mill at Haverhill, N. Y., another concern that attempted to escape Union control, a vigorous strike, is now being waged and very difficult conditions, this strike has been extended to New York where it is being conducted against the firm of J. Gutman, who is a partner in the Hiram concern. The Union is offering all its resources in this fight for it realizes very clearly how important it is not to let concerns trying to escape Union control get away with anything.

The advance of the Union in the last few days has been in the last few days three new shops have settled with the I.P.U., the Wilson and the Millard, all in Brooklyn. The first two were open shops, the last one was an Industrial Union shop in which the workers, on their own initiative, decided to come over to the A. F. of L. union. In their declaration, these workers not only announced their entry into the Knitgoods Union but also said upon the part of the workers of the Industrial Union to do likewise, urging the local organization to dissolve in the interests of unity and increased fighting power. The Union has extended a welcoming hand to all of these workers who will tend to the organization an aggressive defense and champion.



1935 Executive Board and Staff of Local 132, Boston and Novelty Workers' Union

« « New York Dressmakers' Section » »

In and Around Local 22

By Nathaniel M. Minoff

Max Bluestein Back With Us

The brief announcement in the last issue of "Justice" by the manager of our local, regarding Max Bluestein's resignation, does not mean administrative heads of our Union, has evoked considerable interest and enthusiasm among our members. To "the" older members, Bluestein has taken an active part in the life of our organization for a period of many years; he has served the Union in various capacities, and during the trying years of 1932 and part of 1933, was the secretary-treasurer of Local 22. Brother Bluestein brings back to our organization a wide experience, a lofty idealism and a proper understanding of the problems and aspirations of the dressmakers.

The writer, who worked alongside of him for several years, is particularly pleased to extend to him his personal welcome, as well as that of the executive staff of the organization, who are elated over his return to active participation in the affairs of our Union.

The Spring Season Is Fast Approaching

All indications point to the rapid approach of the Spring season. Fashionable gowns and smart "Trade" papers, likewise, join in prophesying a healthy demand and a lively interest on the part of buyers. We do not know how good it is going to be, but one thing is for sure, it will be. We do know, however, that it cannot be too good and it cannot last too long. We have just gone through a period of prolonged seasons which has impoverished the bulk of our membership. Old debts have not been settled; new ones have been incurred. The question, now, is: how can the approaching season be turned into a medium of separating the old obligations and making it possible for each worker to create some sort of reserve to tide him or her over the inevitable dull period which follows every busy season?

Too many of our members have been forced on the relief rolls. Inquiries without end are constantly being made at our office by the various home relief bureaus regarding the status of our members applying for relief. These inquiries are both embarrassing and painful. It is a source of shame to be the highest in the country—and which has, according to the recent report in a Trade Journal, produced during the past year close to \$5 million dress, should afford to workers an opportunity to make a living without being forced on the government agencies for support and maintenance during the dull periods. This is the reason why the Joint Board is determined in its effort to go through with its program, as indicated in Brother Zimmerman's report in the last issue of "Justice." But, while from that, it is important that shop chairman and price committees take every precaution now, at the beginning of the season, to see that the price are as settled that every worker will be assured a living wage. Above all, it is well to bear in mind that the minimum scale provided in our agreements are minimums and not maximums. Those who are familiar

with the needle industries know that the largest proportion of the workers have always earned above the minimums. Minimums are set down only for the slowest workers and the price committees must have this in mind when they begin to settle garments.

Grand International Ball

What promises to be the outstanding affair of the year will take place on Saturday, January 19, at Rockland Palace, 115th Street and Eighth Avenue. Our affair, which is held this year under the auspices of the Harlem branch, carries an international character, inasmuch as the entire membership of the Union, as well as of the sister organizations, has been invited to join us on this happy occasion.

Elaborate arrangements have been made, and we are certain that a splendid evening is in store for all those who will attend. We ask particular attention of our members to the fact that, aside from the two prominent dance orchestras, a Broadway revue with the

very best talent will be staged at midnight. Mr. Roger Wolfe Kahn, one of the best known American orchestra leaders, has kindly consented to act as guest conductor. Tickets in advance are 35c. Obviously, our Union is not running this affair for any profit. It is part and parcel of a general program of the local to cultivate a spirit of friendship, equality and solidarity among its members and we are confident that it will be a great success.

1935 New Membership Cards

Members must make haste to change, at once, their membership cards to the new BLUE 1935 card. Cards will be changed on the same basis as formerly, with the provision: That those who have not yet paid their anti-Nazi stamp will have to pay before their membership cards are changed. Statistics show that the bulk of our membership have learned the valuable lesson of paying their dues on time and changing their cards on time. And what a valuable lesson this is or ought to be to a good many of our members who have had the misfortune of failing to pay their dues on time and getting into a mess of trouble as a result! We

have in mind the suspension of membership to which many were subjected during the past season, as well as in the future of others to receive their sick benefit because of their arrears. We urge our members, therefore, to change their membership cards.

Workmen's Circle Branch Organized

As previously planned to announce, through the medium of "Justice," that the local union had organized a branch of the Workmen's Circle in our local, known as the Progressive Dressmakers' Branch 122. All members of the local, regardless of sex or nationality, are eligible for membership. The Workmen's Circle is the oldest fraternal organization in the United States. Few of our members are unfamiliar with the high ideals and aspirations of the Workmen's Circle. Commonly referred to in radical circles as the "Red Cross" of the trade union movement, it has repeatedly and deservedly gained the official endorsement of the International Conventions of our Union. The Workmen's Circle, in addition to the order, which affords full sick, medical, sanatorium and burial privileges, are invited to consult the writer at the office of the Union.

Help Frequently Appreciated

Frequent references are being made regarding the valuable services rendered by the Relief Fund of Local 22 to its members. We print below two of the many letters we have recently received. For obvious reasons, the full names of the writers are omitted.

"New York, Dec. 27, 1934."

Dear Sirs and Brothers: I have received a check for the sum of fifteen dollars for which I send my brotherly thanks to you and the Relief Committee for their brotherly support. Am still confined to stay home for the next three weeks. I hope I will come back to my health. I shall join again into our Union ranks and again do good work for our Union. Thanking you again, I remain,

"October 31, 1934."

Dear Sirs and Brothers: I wish to thank you for all you have done. If it were not for you, my situation would have been impossible. We wish to extend our appreciation for the courtesy and kindness you have extended us. Obligingly, I am,

Mrs. L. T."

❖ Moscow, Warsaw, London Contrasts ❖

From Address by Julius Hochman, General Manager of Dress Joint Guild, at Reception Meeting Held To Greet Him Upon His Return From Europe, December 12, 1934.

(Excerpts)

Shop Meeting At Opera

Life, on the whole, in Russia. It must be conceded, is very hard. True, an increase in wages was recently given to all workers but this raise does not come up to the price increase of most necessities of life. But no worker is without an overcoat or shoes (not of the best, of course), and when you see them standing and watching the construction of subways, buildings and hotels, you can see that to them that is their supreme satisfaction. You see these things, and the poverty, and the sacrifices they make—and then you find these workers, who I tried to get a ticket for the performance, if I came there, I found a meeting. The theatre was to perform for a special factory or industry and in the meantime they were holding a meeting. And no matter where you turn, the first thing you see is a big portrait of Stalin and nearby a smaller picture of Lenin. During the meeting they all make reports on their needs: shoes, pants, overcoats—and they obtain grants for it right there. And then someone makes a speech—of production, produce, produce, produce! An adjournment is taken for a few minutes, and on to the cafeteria! The prices! A glass of tea, 30 rubles; a pair of trousers, I did not eat the pear that night, but in a few days, I ate pears too. As far as the theatre is concerned, Russia has the best in the whole world!

A "Medium" Shop in Warsaw

From Russia I went to Paris, I stopped, on my way, in Poland, where I promised, before I started, to address the garment workers. In the two days that I spent in Poland, I met all the leaders of the workers; they told me they would take me to a "medium" garment shop. I walked up about three flights. The street looked like the Green Street of the old waist and dress days. Upon coming in, I saw mostly girls working, making coats. When I came in a woman got up saying she wanted her husband to meet me too, and the man shortly walked in, in pajamas, from another room; of the eight workers, three were of the family—the wife and two daughters.

All the Same Same Profit Motive

Taking it all in all, outside of the fact that there are no capitalists and no profit motive, the order of life itself, the division of earnings, of wages, of having to work fast, of having to produce—does not look much different—except that it is a little worse—from a capitalist country. The basis of capitalism is taken away, but the means of living for the workers is just the same in a capitalist country. For better food, for a cleaner environment you have to pay more; for cheaper food, for not so clean an environment, you pay less. It is these divisions of life that to a Socialist do not look right.

In Russia, a street cleaner gets 75 rubles a month, a good mechanic gets 400 rubles a month. When you come to Hated Metropolis, you do not feel that you are in Russia. In the afternoon, concerts; and in the evening, American jazz; and the whole thing looks to us a terrible contradiction. Yet, that is what you have there, and that only question is this: Will this dictatorship which we have in Russia alter the hard living conditions which prevail there up to the present time?

In Poland I saw a great deal of poverty, but I also saw there a great deal of idealism. All in all, things are very tragic there. Fascism is spreading out, its claws are beginning to feel its people. For instance, I was taken to a children's school, and there I found the children very much under-nourished. This children's school was one of the State institutions when the government helped to maintain it, but now the government not only has stopped its support, but it aims to destroy the school. But, in spite of all this poverty, I saw in Poland the finest type of people I ever met; but they are suffering, and don't be surprised to hear the very worst of Poland. If ever we get a call to help them, I hope the call will not go unanswered.

May Have Socialism With King

I then went to England, where I also visited a garment factory. Although the boss did not live there in the shop, as in Poland, it was not very much better; they are also very much in pain. The workers have no agreement with the employers, and the number of work hours is not uniform. A time there I was there, they arranged a little dinner for me. Those present at the dinner in the shop were the Mayor of the borough, the secretary of the local Labor Party, one of the old leaders of our movement, the secretary of the London Trades Council, and a number of others. At the recent election, most of the Labor Party people were elected. There is an entirely different feeling, different leadership there; very intelligent men, well trained and educated. I attended several sessions of parliament and sessions of the City Council; I heard these men get up and present their case in a dignified way; they were prepared with all details. I was there during the celebration of the birthday of the King's youngest son, and watching those English people, I say that they must have their royalty—they might have even Royalism with their King. These English people are very traditional.

Paris is a very beautiful city, with marvelous museums, wonderful statues, very beautiful parks and many historical points. But, somehow, in Paris, the history of the city is one thing, and the life of the people is another. There is no connection between the life of the people and the history of the city. In England, the life of the people is tied up in a thousand ways with the things of the past.

Concentrate on Politics In England, they are now preparing for the next election, and they expect it will bring a great majority for the Labor Party. In 1934, they expect to see Labor in power; they have succeeded in convincing the people in England that the Labor Party is the only party of the people; and the people believe in it, because the Tory Party has turned right and left, and the Labor Party can have England from war, it will be swept into power. It was a short trip after all, and I covered several countries.

As we compare now, we know that we, in the United States, are particularly efficient, insofar as organization is concerned, but we have not yet reached the point of having a political party of our own; but, when it comes to comparing unions, I want to tell you that we are far ahead—particularly in sheer economic strength. When I told them that we have a 53-hour week, this fact seemed not of great importance to me; it seemed that they were far ahead on the political side, in legislation. In the economic field they are not very active—at least not as they should be. The trade unions there had lost tremendously, but they are far ahead of us. If the workers joining them again; but as far as real strikes—the struggle for work conditions—are concerned, I believe that from this particular point of view, it is 20 years that we are far ahead of them. I am grateful to everybody. I thank you.

That Dressmakers' International Ball

By Edward Welsh

Many people have many things to look forward to in the New Year. Some pleasant—others not so pleasant! But let us cast aside the unpleasant for the moment. We'll get to them in due season. Let us fix our attention on the event about which every dressmaker is talking, planning, and looking forward to with great eagerness. What? That's it—your favored "The Dressmakers' International Ball"—call it this one up to the credit of the Harlem Section of Local 22.

The Dressmakers' International Ball, which will be held at the Rockland Palace, 155th Street and Eighth Avenue, on Saturday evening, January 19, certainly will be one of the largest and grandest affairs ever held by any section of our Union. Although the ball is held under the auspices of the Harlem Section, the entire Union is being mobilized for its support.

Two Negro Dance Bands

The arrangements committee has secured two of the most outstanding Negro dance orchestras to furnish the music for the occasion. The ever-popular Fletcher Henderson and his Original Orchestra, Columbia and Victor Recording Artists, well known to radio audiences, will provide the sort of stimulating rhythm that tickles your toes and sends you waltzing or shim-sham-shimmying in spite of yourself. For seven years Fletcher Henderson and his orchestra have led forth at the famous Roseland Ballroom on Broadway and for fourteen months at Connie's Inn, famous Harlem night club.

In addition, Gerald Clark's Caribbean Serenaders, popular for their broken rhythms of Cuba and Latin countries, will supply the tunes that radiate with a "touch of sunny Spain"—a "pimpe of gait"—and the "spices of the blue Caribbean." For rhumba, tango and caracosa—this is the band.

At the midnight hour, a galaxy of prominent Broadway and radio stars under the direction of a noted puppet conductor will entertain with a program of songs and amusing Broadway hits.

The Ideal Behind It

The idea behind this affair is to arrange a general get-together for the members of our Union and their friends. The great strike of August, 1933, brought streams of fresh blood from the ranks of the sequestered dressmakers into our Union. Tens of thousands of dressmakers, of various ages, of various nationalities, who had never been organizing before, fought the side of the picket line during the strike and, since the strike, have actively participated in the life of

the Union, contributing to the building of our Union into the gigantic force it is today.

Now, for a brief moment of relaxation. Take your hands off the machine, put away your scissors, thimbles, pins and needles—pick the threads and brush the lint off your clothes, clap your hands and LET'S GO!

Others—those who didn't get your ticket yet! If not, you'd better shuffle around to the Union office, 222 West 43rd Street, and get it now. They're going fast. It's hot! Most dressmakers older than you ever jangled for 35 cents. Little make-the-cream-into-showing-of-working-class solidarity that'll bring joy to the hearts of everyone—except the bosses—oh, yardon me, and, of course, Hitler!

"Bread and Roses" Widely Lauded

The book issued by Local 22 to commemorate its 15th anniversary "Bread & Roses" has created a most favorable impression, expressed in terms of high praise, for its literary and artistic content. Arturo Giovannitti, well-known poet and an actor, edited the book, edited by Gertrude Rosenthal, of the I. L. G. W. U. publicity staff.

Among the first to congratulate First Vice-President Antonioli, secretary-manager of Local 22, upon the Madison Square Garden affair was Governor Herbert H. Lehman, of New York, who wrote: "... I am delighted to hear of the great success of your entertainment at the Madison Square Garden. It was a source of great regret for me that I could not be present. I hope that next year, if you give another ball, I shall have the opportunity of being with you. Nothing would give me greater pleasure." Governor Lehman's kind letter adds an invitation to Antonioli to attend his inauguration in Albany as governor for a second term.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, after warm congratulations for the success of the celebration, writes about the souvenir book as follows: "... It is a most impressive history. In addition to that, I congratulate you and those associated with you to compiling and publishing the history upon its very beautiful and attractive appearance."

Edward P. McFarady, First Assistant Secretary of Labor, writes of

the book as follows: "It is beautiful, artistic and informative. ... It will have a permanent place in my library."

Others who sent messages of congratulation were Bernard S. Deutch, president of the Board of Aldermen of the City of New York; Raymond W. Insersoll, borough manager of Brooklyn; and Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

H. C. Vladeck wrote: "My dear Antonioli, I am very thankful to you for sending me a copy of your souvenir. I sat up quite late last night to glance through it and I am glad to tell you that this is, to my knowledge, the best publication of its kind I ever saw."

A splendid letter was also sent by Fannie Hurst, another by Su-

preme Court Justice Salvatore C. Brandeis, and by a score of other well-known people, including Basile Drell, manager of Local 45; Julius Hochman, manager of the Dressmakers' Joint Board; and Eridio Clemente, secretary of the Italian Federation.

Brother Luigi Antonioli and all the officers and Executive Board members of Local 22, finding it impossible to thank individually every one of those who sent greetings and congratulations, are availing themselves of the columns of "Justice" to convey to all of them their gratitude and their pledge that in the future they will strive to do even better for their members culturally and to train them for the fighting lines on the economic battlefield.

"The Voice of Local 89"

The weekly radio program transmitted every Saturday morning by the Italian Dress and Waist Makers' Union, Local 89, over radio station WEDV (1590 Kef), from 10:00 to 10:45, from now on, will present at every period some special feature, according to a statement issued by Luigi Antonioli, General Secretary of the local and first vice-president of the I.L.G.W.U.

This coming Saturday, January 19, the special feature will be a guest balladeer, Brother Fred Lefcort, an operator and member of Local 89. He will sing "On the Road to Mandalay," by Olaf Stapledon.

The program includes: Josephine Baldon, soprano, in "I Give My Heart" from the Operetta, "Du Barry," by Mario, the "Italian Croucher," in "Café-Chanson," Waltz-dance, by Cherubino; Patti & Ron's Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Giuseppe Adams, in "Omby," from "Olebo" by Gust. The sketch by the Patti & Ron's Dramatic Group, directed by Mario Baldon, will be "Tedeschi."

Luigi Antonioli will deliver his weekly speech, on a topic embracing problems of general interest to the Italian workers and problems of the dress industry.

Vanni Montana will be the Master of Ceremonies.

At the beginning and the end of the program, the Chorus of the Italian Dressmakers will sing the "Theme Song of Local 89."

A SURPRISE FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 19th

Luigi Antonioli is preparing a very pleasant surprise for the

Workers-Students Praise Their Union

With the first half of the Winter term drawing to a close, the educational department of Dressmakers' Union, Local 22, I.L.G.W.U., has received a large number of resolutions from various classes and groups expressing their appreciation of the work done by the Union in this field and urging that the program of educational activities be continued and extended in the coming year.

These resolutions are signed: For the students of the class in Economics at the Central Union School, by Louis Shapiro; for the

class in the Structure and Functioning of the Union, by Harry Horowitz; for the Public Speaking class, by D. Altman, J. Zimmerman, B. Orner, R. Dubois; for the Advanced English class, by Morris Schermer; for the Harlem School, 124th St.; for the Bronx Union School, by Fanny Kohn; for the Greenville School, by Joseph Givoli; and by a cabaret for the Spanish School.

New School Term in February

The sentiment of the dressmakers expressed in these resolutions is a guarantee that the next school term, which will begin the first week in February, will be even more successful than the term just completed. Meanwhile, between the two terms, the educational department is scheduling a series of special lectures on "The History of Dress," "The Labor Movement in the Twentieth Century," and "The New Year's Eve." On Wednesday, January 23, 6:15 P. M., at the Union headquarters, 222 West 43rd Street, these lectures will be given by Irving Brown, one of the most popular teachers at the Union Central School. The first will take place on Wednesday, January 23, 6:15 P. M., on "How It All Began—The Labor Movement and Land Speculation." The subsequent lectures will deal with Jay Gould and Cornelius Vanderbilt, John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie and J. P. Morgan.

On Tuesday evening, January 15, 6:00 P. M., B. Sherman, editor of "Proletarian's Gedach," will lecture in Jewish on the subject, "Is There Jewish Fascism?" Mr. Sherman has just returned from a trip to Palestine and his lecture promises to be a very interesting and instructive one.

In addition, of course, the various gym classes, swimming groups, mandolin and guitar groups, chess, brass band, dancing groups under the auspices of Local 22's educational department, will continue right through without interruption. All of these activities are free to Union members. Further information may be obtained from Will Herzberg, Room 505, 222 West 43rd Street.

ANNOUNCING

A new series of lectures describing the rise of Modern America and explaining how our social system has become what it is.

The HISTORY OF GREAT AMERICAN FORTUNES by IRVING BROWN

Wednesday Evenings at 6:15 P. M. at Union Headquarters 222 West 43rd St., Room 514

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 6:15 P. M. About the Railroads—Jay Gould and Cornelius Vanderbilt.

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 6:15 P. M. Oil and Steel—John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie.

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 6:15 P. M. Banks and Finance—J. P. Morgan.

These Lectures Are Free To Union Members!

WATCHES TO AGENT, CHAIRMAN

We, the workers of the Benn Dress Co., 221 West 31st Street, adopted the following resolution at a meeting of our shop on the 25th of December, 1934.

Let it be widely known that the progressive administration of Local 22, I.L.G.W.U., because of its devotion to an workers and its devotion to the union, has taken action to ensure the success of our union in the future.

In order to express our appreciation, we decided to give a useful gift to our department manager, Alvin Kantor, and to our business agent, Louis Rosenfeld, a golden watch, and also to our ex-chairman, Brother Frank, a golden watch. May these gifts be an encouragement to them to be devoted to the workers in general and to our Union in particular.

Hyman Bookman, Chairman
Clara Rothberg, Secretary
Brown—Committee

DRESSMAKERS INTERNATIONAL BALL

OF THE

DRESSMAKERS UNION LOCAL 22 (Harlem Section)

ROCKLAND PALACE
155th Street and Eighth Avenue

SATURDAY EVENING
JANUARY

19th

EIGHT - THIRTY O'CLOCK

TWO FAMOUS ORCHESTRAS

FLETCHER HENDERSON
AND
ORIGINAL ORCHESTRA
Waiters and
Shim-Sham-Shimmying

GERALD CLARKE'S
CARIBBEAN SERENADERS
Radio Broadcasters
Rhumbas and Calypsas

Other PROMINENT BROADWAY AND RADIO STARS

ADMISSION:
Boxes . . . seating ten
five dollars

thirty-five cents (in advance)
one dollar (at the door)
loges . . . seating six
twenty-five

Get Your Tickets NOW at All Union Offices

Live Lines from Garment Sidelines

By Frances Keane

Cloak Salesmen Get A. F. of L. Charter

Another group of outside salesmen has been granted a charter by the American Federation of Labor. This time it is the coat and suit salesmen. Several weeks ago a similar grant was given to outside salesmen of millinery.

The charter was officially presented to the Union and Garment Salesmen's Association of America, an organization of 400 members, of which A. & C. Cohn is president. Headquarters of the Union will be in the Governor Clinton Hotel.

A uniform contract, which is distinctly a minimum one, will be offered to employees. But any salesman able to make better terms, by reason of a special bargaining power, is free to do so. He is also at liberty to secure the highest drawing account or commission that his ability can demand.

The union's function, according to Mr. Cohn, is to specify the minimum working conditions under which its members may accept employment. No member is permitted to sign an agreement less favorable than the union minimum contract.

Label Totals Give Production Picture

A check-up of the number of NRA labels sold in the United States during 1934 gives the first accurate data on the national production of coats, suits, and dresses ever presented.

With the peak period of the Spring season, showed the highest number of coat and suit label sales of any month in the year, with October next. In 1934 4,418,935 coats and suit labels were sold. As the label was first introduced under the coat and suit code in October, 1932, comparison with last year is impossible. But comparison for October, November and December of 1932 with the same months of 1934 shows that the label sales for the latter period were almost double that for 1932.

The total label sales for 1934 in the wholesale dress trade was \$4,323,935. This total, however, does not include the labels and tags on knitted underwear. According to figures made public by the Kellstedt Overseas Agency last month, it issued \$4,215,067 labels and \$1,212,282 tags during 1934.

To Protect Style Creators

To eliminate the evils of style piracy, the National Association of Style Creators, Inc., has been formed, with headquarters in New York City. Branch offices will be established in every dress manufacturing center in the United States.

This organization, according to Ben Bloom, with copyright center in the style business, has been formed with headquarters in New York City. Branch offices will be established in every dress manufacturing center in the United States.

"The effect of organizing this self-governing corporate entity in dress manufacturing," says Mr. Bloom, "will be the employment for thousands of workers new ideas, including designers, sample hands and workers generally. The vast dress industry in this country has been threatened by style piracy, which drove scores of designing staffs and workers into idleness and demoralized the industry."

"This new organization is strong enough and large enough to afford

protection to style creators. Designs will be copyrighted, with a copyright label attached to the garment. American women everywhere will be the gainers by elimination of style piracy. Consumers will derive the benefit of fair competition, keen rivalry in production of designs, and the permanence of stabilizing factors that will eliminate losses, thus increasing the content of designers and workers."

To Control Homework

Regulations to provide adequate compensation and an effective system of supervision have been submitted to the NRA by the Kellstedt Overseas Code Authority to govern the homework production of hand knitted sportswear, infants' wear and headwear. A stay of homework production will be granted if the NRA approves the regulations.

The regulations provide for the establishment of a bureau to carry out the rulings, to secure compliance, and to collect information. Before manufacturers or contractors are to be granted the benefits of a stay for homework they must give written consent signifying acceptance of the regulations. Producers must file the names and addresses of all manufacturers employing them.

Piece work rates, to be fixed by the bureau, will be paid to homeworkers. Contractors must receive sufficient compensation to permit the payment to homeworkers of the stipulated rates together with a reasonable allowance for the contractor's overhead and expenses.

Light Needle Trades Codes

A public hearing on a proposal to consolidate the codes for light needlework industries will be held on February 1. Deputy Administrator Mr. M. D. Vincent will hold the hearing at the Mayflower Hotel.

It is proposed to make the code for the light sewing industry, with the exception of garments, the basic code for the following industries: closet accessories; fly manufacturing; novelty curtains, draperies, bedspreads and novelty pillows; powder puffs, ready made

furniture slip covers; shower curtains, and umbrella manufacturing.

Retailers Take Up Jobless Insurance

An unemployment insurance plan that would build up a reserve through contributions by employers, employees and the State is favored by those retailers who have this form of unemployment insurance as to which of the four plans of unemployment insurance they prefer. These plans were recommended by the Retail Merchants' Committee for the Study of Unemployment Legislation.

Retailers throughout the country met last week to discuss the four plans which are as follows:

Plan 1: Calls for contributions from employer, employee and State.

Plan 2: Based upon contributions from employer and employee.

Plan 3: Calls for contributions from employer only.

Plan 4: Proposal for Federal machinery to supplement any of the three foregoing plans.

New U. S. Labor Building

For the first time in its history, the United States Department of Labor has all its branches housed under one roof. The Labor Department celebrated New Year's Day by moving into its own building in Washington.

Since it was created 22 years ago, the U. S. Department of Labor has been housed in rented quarters scattered all over Washington.

The Labor Building is seven stories high, with a connecting passage to a similar structure housing the Interstate Housing Commission. In addition to the Secretary of Labor's office the new building will house the Bureau of Classification, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Immigration, the United States Bureau, the Women's Bureau and the U. S. Employment Service.

Offices will also be provided for the National Labor Relations Board, the Textile Labor Relations Board, and the Steel Labor Relations Board. These three tribunals make their reports to the President through the Department of Labor but are not part of the latter.

Health Center Plans and News

By Pauline M. Newman

This still being the first month of the new year, the Union Health Center extends to the leadership and to the entire membership of the I.L.O.W.U. best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous 1935. No, we are not forgetting the editor (though he sometimes forgets us!). We hope for the fulfillment of all that he himself may desire and wish for. Having said that, one has said a number of things.

And now, we would like to warn our membership. We hope they will heed this warning: 1934 has shown us, at the Union Health Center, that thousands of our members and their families suffer from various illnesses. We suggest that they take the following words of wisdom seriously—"It is much less painful and much less expensive to prevent illness than to cure it." Taking care of a slight cold in time may save one from a long drawn-out sickness and save one's doctor bills and interference with one's work.

Hospital Care Needed

The serious part of these notes being over, I will proceed with a few items of news: The plans which, are now under way, when put into operation, will make the Union Health Center one of the greatest achievements of the I. L.

G. W. U. To begin with, we are going to provide for hospitalization membership. We want space in some reputable hospital or hospitals which we could call our own; we want the kind of services which the doctor needs; we want the best there is in the medical profession for our membership. The committee appointed by Chairman Broderick is investigating the possibilities, and will report shortly on its findings.

In the meantime, we are expanding our services at the Union Health Center Building. The new clinics in Asthma and Arthritis are having a fine response. The fact that doctors are on the premises all day long until 4:30 in the evening instead of at specified hours only, has helped to take care of many patients who could not for one reason or another come during regular visiting hours. This extension also takes care of a large number of mothers with children for whom the middle of the day is a more convenient time than the noon hour or the evening.

A Suggestion for the Educational Director

Now, when the daily press is devoting so much of its space to the question of nationalized medicine, the educational directors of the various I.L.O.W.U. locals should include in their programs the subject of Health Education.

It is timely and appropriate to bring before the members the fact that on the question of nationalized medicine the I.L.O.W.U. has been in the forefront. The failure to bring to our members all this nationalized medicine implies, in my opinion, a neglect. Therefore, our members ought to be given the opportunity to discuss the entire problem of sickness among wage-earners and the way out.

The Educational office of the Union Health Center will be happy to cooperate with the educational directors of the I.L.O.W.U.

Local No. 89

Local No. 89 has afforded us the opportunity to tell its members the "why and wherefore" of the Union Health Center over WKKV during its hour on Saturday, Dec. 15. We thank Mr. 89 for that. We appreciate the cooperation in bringing the work of the Union Health Center before its members. I hope we will be asked again.

All Clinics Made Larger

We have added physicians and specialists in every department so as to eliminate waiting as much as is possible. We have also increased the number of sessions so as to be as convenient as possible. The eye

clinic, for instance, is in session every evening (except Friday) and Saturday morning; the nose and throat as well as all other departments have been enlarged and the hours extended—all for the convenience of our members and their families.

These improvements are appreciated is evident from the increase in attendance. On the point, however, I shall have more to say in the next issue of "Justice."

THE SKIRTMAKERS: A RESUBMITTED LOCAL

By Louis Reiss
Manager, Local 23

Before 1932, the entire membership of our local did not exceed 150. These workers were employed in the skirtmaker trade. In the separate skirt trade we had no organized workers.

When the separate skirts appeared in the market a few years ago, some feeble attempts were made to organize some shops, but without much success. These shops were mostly family affairs, in which fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers, largely Spanish-speaking, were employed in small establishments. It was evidently not an easy task to make trade unions out of such groups.

Trade's Sudden Growth

The growth of the skirt trade, however, soon brought about the opening of large shops in the garment districts, some of them with 14 and 15 machines each. In 1933, after the NRA, we were able to enroll about 1,600 members, working at separate shops. In March 1934 this number did not include the Italian workers who joined Local 46, promoters who went to Local 23, and others who joined small numbers. By that time there were already 45 jobs and manufacturers in the trade, who were employing about 35 contractors.

Shortly after that, an association of employers, the National Skirt Manufacturers' Association, was formed and signed an agreement with the I.L.O.W.U. The agreement guaranteed the 10-hour workweek and fixed minimum scales which granted the workers much higher earnings than they had been receiving until then.

150 Shops Fully Organized

The local now has over 2,600 members who work in about 150 shops where work conditions are strictly tried up to under control of Local 23.

TIMELY ANSWER TO OLD STUNT



... Bulletin of I. L. G. W. U. Educational Activities ...

1935 Starts on Crest of Great Activity

By Louis Schaffer

Supervisor, Recreational Activities
I. L. G. W. U.

Connecticut is Full of the Map

An intensive drive to organize the cultural and recreational activities in the Eastern "Out-of-Town" locals, was launched by the department with special attention to the Connecticut organizations.

On January 7, a meeting of the members of the New Haven local of the I.L.G.W.U. was held in Fraternal Hall for the purpose of enlisting the members in the recreational work. The hall was packed to overflowing with members standing in the aisles. There were over 400 present.

Bernard Shab, Connecticut manager of the I.L.G.W.U., addressed the meeting, urging those present to give their full support to the groups that were being organized. Louis Schaffer, Supervisor of Recreational and Cultural Activity, told the hundreds who were present of the plans and workings of the International in the field of labor, athletic, culture and recreation.

Henry Fruchter also addressed the meeting, pointing out to the audience that labor was awakening to a realization of its finer and more spiritual needs, and to the marvelous opportunities that the I.L.G.W.U. is giving to its members to partake in these fields of sports and art.

After the address, over 400 members of the Union registered for various activities ranging from dancing to singing, dramatics, basketball, swimming, and gym work.

Alvin Rosoff of New Haven was appointed to be in charge of the recreation activities of the local.

Stamford, Bridgeport Follow

The first step into this almost virgin territory of Connecticut was followed in quick succession by meetings in other towns. After New Haven, the staff of the International educational department trained its guns upon Stamford and Bridgeport.

On January 8, a meeting took place in Stamford, Conn., at which Vice-President Ninko spoke. The meeting was also addressed by Henry Fruchter. 300 members were interested there for the various recreational activities.

On January 9, a meeting was also held in Bridgeport. Within three days, the Recreational Department made considerable advance in bringing the cultural activities of the I.L.G.W.U. to hundreds of its members in the New England territory.

While the staff has been invading the outlying regions, it has not neglected to carry on its work in New York. With the arrival of the New Year, the Athletic Section launched an active campaign of organization of groups in new locals.

New Groups in New York

Local 62, the White Goods Workers' Union, Local 38, Ladies Tailors and Alterations Workers' Union, Local 146, Ladies Neckwear Workers' Union, Local 32 Corset and Braiders Workers' Union, Local 25 House and Wainmakers' Union, held their first meetings for their athletic inclined members. The

addition to the aforementioned, has as its members, Sam Flamm, Harry Engel, Louis Goldfarb, Harry Perkins, Harry Schmeer, and Irving Solomon.

Choral Group Hears Social Center Concert

On January 9, about 100 members of the International choruses were given a real treat when they came, as guests of the I.L.G.W.U., to the excellent concert of the famous Schola Cantorum, at Carnegie Hall, to listen to a fine choral and modern chorus program. "Rehearsal's Feast," given in New York for the first time, was one of the outstanding numbers in the performance.

Prior to the concert, the members of the various choral groups of the International, held a second general rehearsal in preparation for a public appearance of the combined choruses. The general rehearsal was held in Stelway Hall.

Choral Groups Give Public Performances

Many of the local groups are already giving public performances in their localities. The chorus of Local 150, South River, will present a short program at the opening of the new headquarters of the I.L.G.W.U. on January 17.

The three choruses of Local 22, the Spanish, Negro, and general choruses, will make a public appearance on the occasion of the Grand Ball of Local 22, on January 19, under the direction of Miss Ellsworth Patterson.

Choral Council Decides To Establish Scholarships

The Choral Council has its second meeting on Saturday, January 5. Anna Kespito was elected secretary of the group. A number of important and interesting matters were considered. Foremost among these was a decision by the Council to take steps leading to the provision of scholarships which would furnish opportunities for more intensive musical education to the most talented members of the choral groups of the I.L.G.W.U. Plans are also being made to provide for classes where the members may learn more about the art of music in its various phases.

The present officers of the choral council are Isidor Vastavsky, chairman; Frank Piclick, vice-chairman; and Anna Kespito, secretary.

The New England groups which were organized last week will help to swell the number of choral groups of the International. The

(Continued on Page 36)

Educational Items From Far and Near

By Fania M. Cohn

Secretary, Educational Department

Members of the I.L.G.W.U. members, from many localities, will visit points of interest, amongst them the Museum of Art and Natural History, Rockefeller Center and our own Union Health Center. Members who wish to join these groups should get in touch with their local unions.

A group of Local 81 members visited last Saturday the Metropolitan Museum of Art. They were conducted through it by Mr. Owen Swerdlow, our instructor in literature and drama.

Local 62 Courses

The members of Local 62 resumed their courses in Current Events on Mondays; Meanings of Trade Unionism and English for Beginners on Tuesdays; Social Literature and Advanced English on Thursdays. All these classes meet at the local headquarters, 613 Broadway, N.Y.C., at 6 P.M.

A trip to Rockefeller Center is being planned for Tuesdays. Those who wish to join should get in touch with the educational fee of the local.

Locals 25, 142, 91 and 32

The members of Local 25 had the first session of their class in Trade Unionism on Tuesday, January 8. The class will, however, meet bi-weekly every Monday at 6 P.M. at the office of their local, 125 West 32nd Street, N.Y.C.

Local 142 is planning to resume shortly its courses in the Labor Movement, to be given by Almerino Lee and Nathan Fine. The cases will be announced soon.

Local 91 continues the course in Social Literature and Drama, with Mr. Irwin Swerdlow as instructor. This course does not merely consist of lectures but requires composition work by its members.

Local 32 does not start still. An interesting program will be announced soon for its members.

This department wishes to express its appreciation for the excellent cooperation we are getting from the local educational directors and committees.

Out-of-Town Plans

A discussion group in trade unionism and current events was resumed in Passaic on January 7, and in Bayonne, January 2.

In Newark, the discussion group

is trade unionism and current events was resumed on January 9. A discussion group in trade unionism, and current events, was held at the Jewish Center in Yonkers on Thursdays at 8 P.M.

Discussion groups are being formed in the following centers: Plainfield, Mt. Vernon, Mt. River, Union City, etc.

Educational Meetings

Important as it is to have group activities, the Department is no less eager to enlighten the mass of our membership. For this purpose, larger educational meetings are being arranged in each center, to be attended by hundreds of members at a time.

At these meetings the lecturer is both an instructor and speaker. Mass singing is also a feature at these meetings. As a rule, these meetings are also being attended by the families of our members.

Such meetings are conducted weekly and bi-weekly in Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport and Stamford in Connecticut; Passaic, Bayonne, Plainfield, Hammonton, and Newark in New Jersey; in Philadelphia, in Fall River, Mass.; in Mt. Vernon, Port Chester, Yonkers, White Plains, New Rochelle, and Long Island in New York. Before the end of the current month such meetings will be held in every local throughout the Eastern territory.

Spring Valley

On Saturday evening, January 26, an educational meeting and entertainment will be held in Spring Valley. There will be a presentation of plays, "In Union There is Strength" by the I.L.G.W.U. dramatic group; playing by one of our mandolin orchestras; and mass singing of labor songs by the audience. The evening will end with an informal dance.

Plainfield

On Saturday evening, January 26, the Plainfield local will have a dance. The program will be provided by their own players' groups, who will present "All For One"; one of the mandolin orchestras will play various selections, and their own chorus will lead the audience in singing.

Activities Throughout the Country

From the congenial we are receiving for literature and suggestions from all over the country. It is safe to say that our organizations everywhere are alive with a keen desire for education and recreation.

The Doersmakers' Joint Board of Philadelphia has appointed Brother A. Bloomfield as educational director. Our local in Milwaukee, too, is on the map. It has an educational director, Miss Helen Ma Shaw. In addition to the effective educational program they are conducting, they have a players' dramatic group, who are rehearsing "All For One" which they will present soon.

Introducing Your Union in Spanish

"Introducing Your Union" has been translated into Spanish. It will be distributed widely among the Spanish-speaking members of the Union as a means of acquainting them with the aims and work of their organization.



Bayonne, N. J. Local 160 Opens Educational Season

local 2
al 22
local 4
10.

Among the Cutters of New York

By Samuel Perlmutter, V.P.
Manager, Local 10

House Industry Parleys

The collective agreement in the house industry terminated on December 31. A couple of weeks prior to its expiration, Local 25 began conferring with the House Manufacturers' Association for the renewal of the agreement. Local 10 was represented on the conference committee to cover the interests of the cutters in the trade.

Among the chief points of contention at the first conference was the demand of the Union for an increase in wage scales. Representatives of both the operators and the cutters requested an increase on the ground that the original wage scales inserted in the contract nearly a year and a half ago were not adequate to meet the increased cost of living and were not on a par with the other trades in the women's garment industry in New York. The manufacturers, however, displayed a stubborn attitude and the conference broke off without results. Another meeting with the Association, however, is expected to be held shortly at which we hope the employers will modify their stand in this matter.

Fines Still Being Collected

The stringent policy adopted by the Union with regard to cloak firms violating the work hour or wage scale sections of the agreement or the code is still being vigorously carried on by Local 10. Recently, an investigation was ordered and made of the firm of Pederskov Brothers, and it was found that the cutters were being paid by the piece. The firm was

fined \$15 for this violation. The cutters are being summoned before the executive board on charges, and meanwhile the office has placed another cutter to work in that shop.

In the case of the Elizo Cloak Company, the firm was fined \$100 for doing their own cutting and a cutter was placed in this shop by the office.

The office received a complaint that in the Fairview Coat Company shop, the employer was doing some of the cutting. An investigation brought out that the firm altered records with regard to the rates of wages paid to the cutters employed by them. A fine of \$100 was collected from this firm for the violation.

Another fine of \$150 was collected from the Berns Cloak Company on a similar charge.

Agreement in the Cloak Industry

A few more months remain before the collective agreement in the cloak industry, signed in June, 1932, for a two-year period, will come to an end.

Already, the renewal of this agreement furnishes material for discussion in cloak circles everywhere. The interest in the agreement renewal is especially because it coincides with the expiration of the code arrangements in all industries. No definite summons for conference with the employers has yet been issued, but it is expected that meetings will soon be called of the members of the various locals affiliated with the Cloak Joint Board to formulate plans and advance suggestions to be presented to the manufacturers in the very near future.

At any rate, the seriousness of the expiration of the agreement, while not causing any anxiety in our ranks, gives us a feeling that we must be ready for any emergency that may arise. One never can be certain of what might be the outcome of conferences at which the workers have definite proposals to submit to their employers.

Survey in Cloak Industry

In the meantime, Local 10 has become interested in a phase of the cloak industry which has, until now, been difficult of exact ascertainment, namely, the total number of cutters employed in the cloak shops in the metropolitan district.



Local 10, New York Cutters, Basketball Team

This investigation is now being completed and will cover not only the union shops, which constitute the overwhelming majority in the industry, but also the so-called "black shops," not under the direct control of the Union.

Along with this, Local 10 is also sending out a staff of controllers to investigate whether the cutters returning to work, at this time of the year, have changed their working cards for the new semi-annual card upon returning to work or upon obtaining a new job. It is also intended to check up on their dues payments, and in general, on their standing in the local.

Dress Contract Shops Investigated

At the same time, Local 10 has ordered its controlling staff to cover the contracting shops in the dress industry in New York. The office is also sending special investigators to the outlying districts, Brooklyn, Harlem, Bronx, Westchester, Long Island, etc., where a number of cutters are employed by contracting firms.

The purpose of this investigation is, first, to learn whether any contractors are doing their own cutting, and second, to place cutters wherever legitimate vacancies are found, in accordance with agreement regulations.

While on this point, it is worth mentioning that the Dress Joint Board, with the participation of Local 10, recently conferred with the United Association on the question of introducing the unit pricing system in the dress industry. Other conferences for the same purpose will follow.

1. the Children's Dress Industry

The drive began in the children's dress industry some months ago by Local 91 and Local 10 is still being pressed forward.

The children's dress industry is a fertile field for organizing activity and, as we already commented

on it in these columns, we have, up to the present time, met with gratifying results and organized a number of substantial firms. During the last two weeks, we added to the list of unionized shops in the children's dress trade such an important house as the Fashion Children's Dress, 114 West 23rd Street, employing fourteen cutters; I. Schwartz & Company, employing five cutters, and several smaller establishments.

Local 10's Athletics

The basketball game between the Local 10 team and the team of the Philadelphia cutters, Local 21, took place on Saturday, January 5, in the gymnasium of the Limore Hotel, in New York, resulting in a victory for Philadelphia, the score being 25-11.

Our team made a courageous and fine showing despite the defeat suffered by it. It should be considered that these boys were organized only a few weeks ago. It may be said beyond a shadow of a doubt that they have excellent material for developing a first-class basketball team.

The Philadelphia boys displayed superior team-work and more accurate basket shooting. They, therefore, deserved to win. The rules employed in the game were strictly amateur. A return match with the same team is scheduled to be played in Philadelphia on Saturday, January 12, at the Palais Royal, Broad and Mulberry, at 5:30 P. M. This promises to be a good game, as the lineup of Local 10 was made much stronger. Two of our best players, who failed to play last week due to illness in their families, will appear in uniform in Philadelphia.

Arrangements are also being made for a professional coach to

An Ode To Teddy

By Kalman Haidor

I saw you Sunday, Teddy—
Your white shirt dazzling in the light;
Two stripes of white cuff—and
Two big bands black as night.

You were prancing, Teddy,
And whistling a tune, loud and
—silly—
And when the laughter broke, I saw
A furrow white from ear to ear.

In the Empire State, oh, Teddy,
You wear the liver of a prigg,
A leader and a pilot here
From northmost to topmost town.

Your laughing black eyes, Teddy,
Hart . . . They seem to taunt and
query:
"Say, would you care to lynch me
man . . .
You seem so strong. I am so
weary."

I am filled with shame,
I must look away
From eyes that are gleaming
Dark and gay . . .

WHERE MODIGUANI WILL SPEAK NEXT:

January 14—Charlottesville, Ohio.
January 15—St. Louis, Mo.
January 17-19—Chicago, Ill.
January 20—Milwaukee, Wis.
January 22-23—St. Paul, Minn.

From Minnesota, Conselle Modigliani, who will be accompanied by Brother S. Rosenthal of the International staff, will proceed to the Pacific Coast according to the East via Denver, Kansas City, Detroit, Cleveland, etc. Dates for these localities will be announced in future issues of "Justice."

trials our boys during this week.

Returning to the lineup:
George Fishman Forward
Harry Engel Forward
William Rhines Center
Sam Flamm Guard
Irving Solomon Guard
Modigliani Dave Berg, Hy
Anschutz, Bob
Weiss, Bob Siegel, Manny Lechner, Abe Lubof.

RENEW YOUR WORKING CARDS

All Cloak, Dress, Reffer, Raincoat, Underwear, Children's Dress Cutters, etc., must renew their working cards and secure others when obtaining a new job.

All cutters are instructed to take out working cards for the year, 1935, immediately upon returning to work.

Failure to do so will be considered a violation and will make you subject to heavy punishment.

ATTENTION! CUTTERS OF LOCAL 10

The Next Regular Membership
Meeting will be held on

Monday, January 28, 1935
— 10 —

Arlington Hall
22 St. Mark's Place,
New York, N. Y.

Cutters are urged to attend.



President Dubinsky an Interested Spectator at the Local 10-Local 11 Basketball Game, at Limore Hotel Gym, on January 5, Local 11, Philadelphia Cutters, Won, 25-11

IN APPRECIATION

for maintaining ideal union conditions and equal and just distribution of work in the slack period, we have presented our chairman, JOSE GARCIA, with a medal for citizenship, and hope he and his family will enjoy it as the best of health.

Cutters of
WEINBERG, WEINBERG
& ALPERIN,
1409 Broadway, New York City.



Local 11, Philadelphia Cutters, Basketball Team

...EDITORIAL NOTES...

Ruthless Wage-Slashing To people who are in Puerto Rico inclined to regard the term "exploitation"

chiefly as an academic expression, we recommend a little thinking into a proposal made recently by the Puerto Rico Piece-Rate Commission to cut piece rates for needle workers on the basis of a present on a \$2 weekly minimum. This proposal, we may add, was endorsed by the NRA administrative agency in Washington having control over insular codes.

The fact is that innumerable families, engaged in needle home work in the "hills" and villages of Puerto Rico, can hardly earn a dollar a week at the present piece rates. To allow a cut in prices when a substantial increase is so vitally necessary, is nothing short of an outrage. It will drive tens of thousands of Puerto Rico women and children into deeper and more hopeless despair in order that the profits of employers who cannot "afford" near-decent wages may be augmented.

The vigorous protest of the I.L.G.W.U., calling for a reversal of action on the wage cut, we hope, will not go unheeded. The Puerto Rican needle workers will, and should, resist this outrageous assault upon their already pitifully low earnings. Besides, the situation calls for immediate steps to raise the unbelievably inadequate minimums of the Puerto Rico needle trades.

A Well-Earned Rebuke

The three Kansas City, Mo., silk dress firms which were not satisfied with the 30 per cent wage differential as compared with New York price scales and asked for a further 10 per cent allowance, were properly rebuked by the Industrial Appeals Board early this month.

Like nearly all other mid-Western and Western firms who hanker after bigger and better wage differentials, these Kansas City manufacturers had based their appeal on the "subnormality" of their workers, a popular piece of fiction audaciously nurtured by "out-of-town" employers who are working overtime to spread it far and wide. It was refreshing, indeed, therefore, to find in the opinion handed down by the Appeals Board that the "Dress Code Authority" conducted an investigation, and in making its comparison of operating costs in Kansas City with operating costs in the primary market in New York, it ruled that there was little difference in direct labor costs between these two markets.

Let us hope that these sound words will aid in pricking the bubble of "higher operating costs" which these gentlemen from beyond Chicago and the South have been consistently blowing as an alibi for de-

manding lower wages and earnings for their workers. This is no time for expanding dress wage differentials. The industrially sane and sensible thing to do right now would be to whittle down these differentials so as to bring them within the frame of true facts, divorced from the "subnormality" ballyhoo.

The Negro Workers' Great Meeting

Nearly 4,000 Negro workers got together on Sunday afternoon, January 6, at Rockland Palace Hall, in Harlem, New York City, to listen to a half dozen trade union speakers discuss specific plans and problems affecting the tens of thousands of the still unorganized Negro workers in the metropolis. It was, by far, the biggest Negro labor meeting ever held in New York and it was summoned by the Harlem Labor Committee, a group of A. F. of L. unions.

There came to that meeting about 50 Communist hoodlums bent on breaking it up by the use of the same violent tactics as were employed by the "Left" brigades who, on February 7, 1934, smashed up the great labor-Socialist demonstration called in protest against the bloody massacres of the Austrian workers by Heimwehr-Fascist hangers. Fortunately, due to the firm tactics of Brother Frank Crosswain, who presided at the Harlem meeting, the "Red" hoodlums were foiled in their dastardly attempt and when they tried futilely to storm the platform after the meeting was adjourned, were adequately rewarded for their pains.

The Harlem Labor Committee, to which are affiliated several of the I. L. G. W. U. organizations which have Negroes on their membership rolls, is planning to call similar agitational meeting in the near future. The Negro workers in Harlem and in other sections of the city will not be intimidated by any provocateurs, furnished by employers or by Communists, in their efforts to enroll their fellow workers within the trade unions. Nor will the Negro workers permit any lying demagogues to pull the wool over their eyes concerning the true attitude of American organized labor towards the status of the colored workers within the trade union movement. This attitude has once more been reaffirmed and made clear by President William Green, of the A. F. of L., in a special message, sent to that meeting, from which we quote:

"I express the hope that the cause of organized labor will be greatly advanced as a result of your meeting. The American Federation of Labor is interested in

the economic and industrial welfare of working men and women regardless of race, creed or color. The economic interests of all workers are identical. We must lift the wage standards and conditions of employment for all workers if we are to promote the interests of groups of workers. We invite wage earners regardless of race, color or nationality to unite with each other in the organized labor movement for the purpose of promoting and advancing their economic and industrial interests."

Our Medical Clinics Expanded; Dental Clinic Curtailed

Along with the report that all the medical clinics operated by the Union Health Center — now owned and managed directly by the I.L.G.W.U. — are showing expansion and growth, comes the announcement that the work of the dental clinic connected with the Center has been curtailed.

Attesting to the growth of the medical office, it is cited that not less than 40,000 union members visited the clinics of the Center in 1934. Two additional clinics — for members suffering from arthritis, rheumatism and asthma — have been established; the number of women physicians attached to the staff has been increased to five; sessions of many of the clinics have been doubled or trebled, and periods for general examinations have been extended to practically all hours of the day.

The reason for curtailing the operations of the dental clinic, as given out by the Union Health Center Committee, is as follows: As long as the maintenance of a dental clinic served to offer our members good dentistry at considerably lower prices than those charge by competent dentists outside, there was justification for maintaining such a clinic on a large scale. The depression years, however, have forced a substantial leveling down of dental charges everywhere, which, in turn, made it next to impossible for our dental clinic to compete with the hard-hit neighborhood dentist who was and still is willing to take work for anything he could get. The depression, on the other hand, has also made our own members think only of the price element in connection with their dentistry needs. In the face of such a change, the Committee thought it best to retain only two or three units of the dental clinic for diagnostic and preventive purposes only. These units will be maintained at the Union Health Center on East 17th Street.

Our dental clinic, no doubt, has been a unique experiment. It is our hope that as social medicine and dentistry advance, we shall be again in a position to extend dental service, under more favorable circumstances, to the thousands who benefited by it in former years. To the staff of the clinic, some of whom had been with it from its inception seventeen years ago, we extend gratefulness for their loyalty and co-operation, wishing them well in their new personal ventures.

CHRISTMAS PARTY TO CHAIRLADIES AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS, LOCAL 32, AT HOTEL DELANO, NEW YORK

